

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1048
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Research Collaboration Programme
Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S., are jointly working on a research collaboration programme to use combined scientific and technical skills in enhancing the observations of the Earth; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether increasing frequency and extent of harmful algal blooms in the coastal and oceanic areas of the Indian Exclusive Zone is a cause of concern;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and its impact on marine life/ecosystem; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect fishermen, who rely on fish for their livelihood?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes. Madam

(b) The ministry has been actively working with NOAA, USA towards strengthening of ocean observations in the Indian Ocean with a view to improve understanding ocean process for better forecasting capabilities including studying the Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB). The cooperation is primarily of two folds viz., (i) Develop HAB monitoring and prediction system for short-term prediction of sardine, mackerel and anchovies of the southeast Arabian Sea (ii) acquisition of ocean and atmospheric variables through moored buoys from the equatorial Indian Ocean for the betterment of the prediction of monsoon. As a part the agreement, ship-time of 60 days and related logistics and support had been extended by India, whereas development and deployment of buoys were carried out by NOAA. So far 36 out of 46 buoys have been deployed in the equatorial Indian Ocean and all the data have been shared both by India and US scientists. As a part of Ocean Mixing and Monsoon, two campaign -mode oceanographic cruises were conducted in the Bay of Bengal using both Indian and US research vessels to acquire multi-disciplinary data.

(c) Yes. Madam

(d) & (e) As part of this collaboration, 5 workshops were conducted in India and a hands-on training on phytoplankton toxin analysis given to Indian Scientists by NOAA experts at Cochin. The ministry also has conducted regular surveys along the coastal and oceanic area of India and recorded altogether about 84 algal blooms recorded during the period from 1998 to 2016. Studies suggest a marginal increase in the frequency of occurrence of these blooms over the years due to varied reasons. The data required have been reported for the concerned agencies to make assessment and taking necessary action in the improvement of fishery management.